

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] During the slicing of food products, water is conventionally sprayed onto the blade to lubricate it. This water and any food residue on the blade can form a mixture that can create problems if it is left on the blade. If it is not cleaned off the blade, the mixture can fall down onto food slices or the conveyor on which the food slices fall, or it can be flung by centrifugal force from the drive or guide wheel onto the machine's housing or any nearby object.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] Therefore, the need exists for an apparatus for effectively cleaning the blade of a food slicing machine without the need to take the machine out of useful service.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] In describing the preferred embodiment of the invention which is illustrated in the drawings, specific terminology will be resorted to for the sake of clarity. However, it is not intended that the invention be limited to the specific term so selected and it is to be understood that each specific term includes all technical equivalents which operate in a similar manner to accomplish a similar purpose. For example, the word "connected" or terms similar thereto are often used. They are not limited to direct connection, but

include connection through other elements where such connection is recognized as being equivalent by those skilled in the art.